

The Indiana Department of Correction Raises the Most for the SECC

For the 30th year, state employees had a chance to give back to various charitable organizations. This year's State Employees' Community Campaign (SECC) ran from September 2 to September 26, with statewide goal of raising \$1.2 million. The Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) set a goal of \$200,000 as an agency, and once again came through to surpass that goal. In fact, the IDOC raised the most money of any state agency for the third year in a row.

Every facility, Central Office, and PEN Products held special events during the 4-week period to help raise money. Not only did the events bring employees together for competition, fun, and food, in many cases, but the events accomplished the task—raising money for the SECC.

One of the unique events held was the Exec Staff Lockup. Makeshift iron bars, black and white jumpsuits, and trays of food set the atmosphere in a Central Office conference room, where all Executive Staff members were locked up and asked to raise \$250 in bail in order to be released. Even Commissioner Buss and Chief of Staff Ronay, who were visiting Wabash Valley Correctional Facility, were confined and asked to make bail. All in all, the Exec Staff Lockup raised around \$3,800 for the SECC.

Many other events utilized food as the centerpiece to encourage donations. Chili cook-offs, bake sales, ice cream socials, and cookouts were common at many facilities. For instance, Lieutenant Governor Becky Skillman served as a judge for the Central Office chili cook-off. In addition, the Indiana State Prison sold Subway sandwiches to staff, the Indiana Women's Prison had a walking taco sale, and PEN Products had a homemade ice cream social. These are just a few examples of the events held to raise money for the SECC, while at the same time providing staff with fun activities.



IDOC Central Office staff participate in a cookout at Military Park in Indianapolis to raise money for the SECC.

Commissioner Edwin G. Buss attributed the IDOC's success in raising money for the SECC to the generosity of staff. "For the IDOC to raise the most money for the SECC three years in a row shows the incredible dedication and hard work of staff. Each and every IDOC staff member should be proud of this achievement because they are the main reason it happened."

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